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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02041 240904Z

15
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /001 W
---------- 103467
O R 240828Z FEB 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9253
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS HONG KONG 2041

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (KNOWLTON, THERESA ANN)
SUBJECT: W/W THERESA ANN KNOWLTON

REF: A. STATE 041536 B. STATE 031682 C. KATHMANDU 0582
D. HONG KONG 1327

1. AS NOTED REFTEL D, WE REPORTED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES KNOWLTON LEFT HONG KONG OCTOBER 12 VIA AIR SIAM FLIGHT 909 FOR BANGKOK. ON SAME DAY, FEBRUARY 5, WE WROTE TO MRS. EMMA M. KNOWLTON, 717 WEYMOUTH, SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA 90732, MS KNOWLTON'S GRANDMOTHER, IN REPLY TO HER LETTER OF JANUARY 29. WE OUTLINED STEPS WE HAD TAKEN LOCATE KNOWLTON, BUT TO NO AVAIL. UPON RECEIPT OF SECOND LETTER, REQUESTING WE CONTINUE SEARCH, WE AGAIN TELEPHONED PRECIOUS LOTUS MONASTERY. WE WERE INFORMED PERSONS ON RETREAT ARE OBLIGED ONLY SIGN IN AND ARE NOT REQUIRED IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BY MEANS OF PASSPORT. WE PROVIDED THEM WITH DESCRIPTION OF KNOWLTON AS WELL AS HER ASIAN NAME. AGAIN, THEY WERE UNABLE IDENTIFY HER BY NAME OR DESCRIPTION GOING BACK TO JUNE, 1976.

2. MRS. KNOWLTON PROVIDED US WITH NAME OF ANOTHER MONASTERY AND ASKED THAT WE CHECK IF KNOWLTON MAY HAVE GONE THERE INSTEAD. INASMUCH AS NO TELEPHONE IS LISTED FOR MONASTERY, WE ASKED HONG KONG INFORMATION SERVICE TO ASSIST. THEY PROMISED DO SO. THEY INFORMED US THERE ARE MORE THAN 50 MONASTERIES ON LANTAO ISLAND (SITE OF PRECIOUS LOTUS MONASTERY) ALONE. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THEM, BUT
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WOULD NOTE THAT IN LIGHT OF CATEGORIC STATEMENT FROM IMMIGRATION

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AUTHORITIES THEIR RECORDS REFLECT HER DEPARTURE ON OCTOBER 12
FOR BANGKOK WITH NO RECORD OF RETURN, AND SUCH SEARH AT BEST
WOULD ONLY CONFIRM HER STAY AT ONE OF THEM. EVEN IF KNOWLTON
INTENDED TO CREATE FALSE RECORD OF DEPARTURE HONG KONG, CONGEN
INFORMED IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR WOULD-BE TRAVELLER DEPARTING
COLONY TO PASS IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL OUTBOUND AND THEN PROCEED
TO INBOUND IMMIGRANT OFFICIAL AND REENTER. THUS, THERE IS EVERY
REASON TO BELIEVE THAT KNOWLTON DID DEPART ON OCTOBER 12.

3. AS REQUESTED BY MRS. KNOWLTON IN LAST LETTER, WE TELEPHONED
7 HOSPITALS SEEKING INFORMATION CONCERNING KNOWLTON
FROM OCTOBER ON. ALL CHECKS WERE NEGATIVE. WOULD NOTE THAT
HOSPITALS IN COLONY ARE PROMPT TO NOTIFY CONGEN IF AN AMERICAN
IS ADMITTED IN DISTRESS. IF KNOWLTON HAD MET WITH
ACCIDENT OR VICTIM FOUL PLAY, HER NAME WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE
AVAILABLE TO US BY HOSPITAL DIRECT OR THROUGH POLICE.

4. ALSO AS REQUESTED BY MRS. KNOWLTON, WE CONTACTED AMEXO
RE ENCHASHMENT OF TRAVELLERS CHECKS IN HONG KONG BY KNOWLTON.
ACCORING TO AMEXCO, THIS INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY
AND CAN BE OBTAINED ONLY BY CONTACTING AMEXCO TRAVELLERS CHECKS
ACCOUNT DEPARTMENT, 67 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK.
CROSS

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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To: STATE KATHMANDU
Type: TE
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